

Regulatory Section

Mobile Homes and Associated Items

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Regulation and Mobile Homes

Mobile homes and associated items are only regulated when moved from a generally infested area into or through an non-infested area. To move a mobile home from a generally infested area into or through an non-infested area, an inspection is necessary before the move; certifying documents are necessary during and after the move.

Preparation for the Regulation of Mobile Homes

To regulate the movement of mobile homes from generally infested areas, PPQ and State personnel will cooperate in the following activities:

Contacting All Mobile Home Haulers

All mobile home haulers who move mobile homes from generally infested to non-infested areas will be contacted and placed under Compliance Agreement. Under the terms of the Compliance Agreements, mobile home haulers will only haul mobile homes from generally infested area to non-infested areas after gypsy moth inspections have been performed and documented. Under the Compliance Agreements, the mobile home haulers will know how to initiate the inspections and how to handle the certifying documents.

Contacting the State Department of Transportation

In some States, permits are required to move a mobile home. Contact with the State transportation office will allow access to copies of the permits, so that inspections can be arranged.

Contacting the Media

Contact with media (radio, television, and newspaper) will allow access to mobile home owners. Media coverage will inform mobile home owners of the need for inspections and the possibility of self-inspection.

Contacting the Operators of Mobile Home Parks

Contact with the operators of mobile home parks will allow access to mobile home owners. Operators of mobile home parks will inform departing mobile home owners of the need for inspections and the possibility of self-inspection.

Contacting the Pesticide Applicators

Contact with individual pesticide applicators and with organizations for pesticide applicators will allow access to pesticide applicators who would be interested in becoming QCAs. QCAs are pesticide applicators who will be allowed to inspect mobile homes under Compliance Agreements. See the subsection on **Qualified Certified Applicators (QCAs)** for more information.

Pre-Inspection Procedure

Step 1—Well before the move, contact the departing owner of the mobile home. Explain the threat posed by the gypsy moth and the need to inspect departing mobile homes. Arrange the inspection. Before the inspection, ask the owner of the mobile home to do (or arrange) the following:

- ◆ Make the exteriors of the mobile home and of all associated items accessible for inspection
- ◆ Remove all skirting
- ◆ Make the interior of the mobile home available for inspection, if necessary
- ◆ Provide equipment and labor to ensure rapid access to wheel wells, brakes, undersides, and other inaccessible places on the day of inspection.

Step 2—Assemble all tools and equipment necessary for the inspection:

- ◆ Flashlight, preferably a small high-intensity flashlight
 - ❖ to illuminate nooks and crannies
- ◆ Hand mirror, preferably small and plastic-covered for safety
 - ❖ to examine the undersides of the mobile homes
- ◆ Probe, preferably thin and flexible, possibly a screwdriver
 - ❖ to probe nooks and crannies
- ◆ Paint scraper (putty knife), preferably small and flexible
 - ❖ to scrape off egg masses
- ◆ Wire brush (if a paint scraper is not used)
 - ❖ to scrape off egg masses
- ◆ Ground cover
 - ❖ to lie on when examining the undersides of the mobile homes
- ◆ Workclothes, such as coveralls, hardhat, and goggles
- ◆ Tools, such as Phillips-head and standard screwdrivers
 - ❖ to remove panels, if necessary
- ◆ Ladder
 - ❖ to examine the roof and areas under the eaves
- ◆ Binoculars
 - ❖ to examine suspected, distant egg masses
- ◆ Certifying documents
 - ❖ to record the inspection.

Inspections require the following conditions

- ◆ Weather conditions must be favorable
- ◆ The mobile home and associated items must be accessible to the inspector
- ◆ If possible, the inspection must occur on moving day during blow-in and egg-laying seasons (during the months of April through August). If not possible, the inspection must occur within 5 days of the move.

Safety and Inspections

To prevent injury, use the following procedures when doing inspections:

- ◆ Always wear a hardhat, gloves, and safety glasses.
- ◆ Always check for spiders, such as the black widow and brown recluse.
- ◆ Always wear coveralls.
- ◆ Never crawl under a mobile home on jacks.
- ◆ Always put chocks under the wheels of the mobile home to be inspected.
- ◆ Beware of sharp edges, particularly flashing and siding edges. Never run your hand over edges that could be sharp.
- ◆ Use a flashlight to illuminate a dark area before entering the dark area.
- ◆ Use mirrors, instead of entering tight corners.

Inspection Procedure

Step 1—Examine the vegetation around the mobile home for life stages of the gypsy moth.

If the vegetation in the surrounding area is infested, the mobile home is likely to be infested. However, even when there is no indication of a gypsy moth population in the surrounding area, infestation of the mobile home is possible. Therefore, all inspections must be exacting and complete.

Step 2—Examine the mobile home and associated items for life stages of the gypsy moth.

Look in, on, and under everything. The examination must cover all exterior surfaces, including surfaces deep within nooks and crannies. Use probes and flashlights to examine all the nooks and crannies.

Examine lower surfaces very carefully. For egg laying, gypsy moth females favor sheltered under-surfaces. Examine the underside of a mobile home by crawling on a drop cloth, using a hand mirror, and/or probing with a screwdriver.

Inspect the following with particular care:

- ◆ Roof and eaves
- ◆ Chimney flashing and rainguard
- ◆ Flashings
- ◆ Window sills (top and bottom)
- ◆ Shutters
- ◆ Awnings (open if necessary)
- ◆ Moldings (probe if necessary)
- ◆ Expando unit (open if necessary)
- ◆ Patio room
- ◆ Vents
- ◆ Fuse boxes, circuit breaker box, and/or electrical connections
- ◆ Propane gas tanks (including the gas cap)
- ◆ Compressors
- ◆ Air conditioners (remove covers)
- ◆ Drain pipes
- ◆ Skirting
- ◆ Steps
- ◆ Hitch, including the underside of the I-beams and junction
- ◆ Tail lights
- ◆ License plate
- ◆ Mud flaps
- ◆ Wheels, including the inside of the rim and brake drums (if accessible)
- ◆ Blocks on which the mobile home rests
- ◆ Underside of the mobile home, including floor boards, frame, and tubing

Commonly overlooked sites for larvae and egg masses are wheels, especially the inner sides, chimney caps and flashing, and the lip of the lower wall of a mobile home.

When necessary, articles that are likely to harbor the gypsy moth must be disassembled prior to the inspection. The disassembly can be done by the owner of the mobile home, workers contracted by the owner of the mobile home, or the inspecting QCA.

Associated items and parts of the mobile home near infested vegetation deserve close attention.

Step 3—As infestations are found, treat the infestations.

See below for treatments.

Step 4—Document the inspection.

See below.

Treatments

Physical Removal of Egg Masses

Use a wire brush or paint scraper to remove an egg mass from an OHA. Be sure to brush or scrape vigorously to remove all of the egg mass; however, do not brush or scrape so vigorously that the finish is damaged.

Physical Removal of Egg Masses after Spraying

To apply Golden Natur'l Spray Oil to an egg mass, use (1) a sprayer with an adjustable nozzle, (2) a paint brush, or (3) a similar brush. Thoroughly saturate the egg masses to the point of runoff so that the egg mass is "soaked." The Golden Natur'l Spray Oil will penetrate rapidly destroying even the innermost eggs. Then physically remove the egg mass, using a wire brush or paint scraper. Vigorously brush or scrape all of the egg mass from the surface. Do not brush or scrape so vigorously that the finish is damaged.



The methods above are preferred over insecticide use.

Spraying of Larvae with Insecticide

An insecticides, such as acephate (Orthene Tree and Ornamental Spray), is to be used only for larvae when removal by brush or paint scraper is not practical.

Follow insecticide label instructions carefully. More information is in the Treatments Subsection.

Documents for Mobile Home Inspections

The following documents will allow the movement of mobile homes from generally infested areas to non-infested areas:

PPQ Form 540 (Certificate)

Characteristics of the Certificate are as follows:

- ◆ Issued by PPQ or State inspectors
- ◆ Intended for mobile homes that are found to be free of gypsy moth.

PPQ Form 530 (Limited Permit)

Characteristics of the Limited Permit are as follows:

- ◆ Issued by PPQ or State inspectors
- ◆ Intended for mobile homes that are treated to be free of infestation or are suspected of being infested, although appearing free of infestation.

QCA Document

Characteristics of the QCA Document (see [Appendix R](#)) are as follows:

- ◆ Issued by QCAs
- ◆ Intended for mobile homes that are completely free or treated to be free of gypsy moth.

Use of the Documents for Mobile Home Inspections

The inspection documents will allow monitoring of the movement of mobile homes and associated items. Use of the inspection documents will allow the following:

- ◆ Inspections for the most threatening moves
- ◆ Trapping to survey the most threatened areas
- ◆ Detection of inadequate inspections.

Use the documents to list the moves from the most threatening to the least threatening. Inspections and trap at the most threatening moves. Continue down the list and inspect and trap as resources permit.

The following table on the can be used to list moves from the most threatening to least threatening.

TABLE 15-1: A Table for Prioritizing the Risk from Transported Mobile Homes

Priority	Document	Treated or Untreated Mobile Home	Situation at Site of Origin
1	QCA Document	Treated	Heavy Infestation
2	QCA Document	Treated	Light Infestation
3	QCA Document	Untreated	Heavy Infestation
4	QCA Document	Untreated	Light Infestation
5	Limited Permit	Treated	Heavy Infestation
6	Limited Permit	Treated	Light Infestation
7	Limited Permit	Untreated	Heavy Infestation
8	Limited Permit	Untreated	Light Infestation
9	Certificate	Untreated	Heavy Infestation
10	Certificate	Untreated	Light Infestation